

A+ Scholarship Program
Summary of Proposed Amendments to 6 CSR 10-2.190

The following summary is intended as a companion piece to the proposed amendments to the administrative rule for the A+ Scholarship Program. When reviewing the administrative rule along with this document, you will be able to identify newly proposed language as bold text, while deletions will appear as bracketed and italicized text.

1.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(1)(H) Definition of Full-time Student

Amends the definition of full-time student to specify students enrolled in clock hour programs must be enrolled in at least 24 clock hours per week to be considered to be enrolled full-time. The current definition does not reference clock hour programs.

2.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(1)(N) Definition of Renewal Student

Amends the definition of renewal student to include students who were eligible for the A+ scholarship but did not receive any funding due to receiving federal grant aid. As a result of this change, students in this situation will be subject to the 2.5 cumulative grade point average after their first academic year of A+ eligibility at a postsecondary institution.

3.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(2)(C) Treatment of Federal Aid in a Partnership or Consortium Agreement

Requires institutions to apportion a student's federal aid between all institutions involved in a partnership or consortium agreement. This proposal is in alignment with the A+ program's requirement that a student's A+ award must be reduced by the amount of federal aid received. In the case of an agreement between an A+ participating institution and a non-participating institution, this proposal prevents application of the full amount of federal aid to the non-participating institution thereby increasing the student's A+ award at the A+ participating institution.

4.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(3)(A)7 Algebra I End of Course Exam

The proposed amendments relating to the Algebra I end of course exam requirement:

- Allow for a waiver of the A+ Algebra I EOC requirement for a student when the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has waived its testing requirement for that student. This will primarily affect transfer students that took Algebra I at an out of state or private school.
- Allow for scores of proficient or advanced on more advanced mathematical end of course exams to recognize the potential for student improvement in mathematics.
- Specify that developmental or remedial coursework cannot be included in the 12 credit hours (or the equivalent) required of students pursuing the alternative to the Algebra I EOC, and
- Specify reimbursement for students utilizing the alternative to the Algebra I EOC requirement will not be made retroactively for the first semester of study.

5.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(3)(A)12 and (3)(B)2 Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements for Initial and Renewal Students

Clarifies the satisfactory academic progress expectations for both initial and renewal students, bringing the requirement for initial students into alignment with requirements for federal Title IV aid. These changes replace the definition of satisfactory academic progress currently found in 6 CSR 10-2.190(1)(P).

6.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(4)(C)1 Eligibility Expiration at 48 Months from High School Graduation

Clarifies that student eligibility expires 48 months from high school graduation as documented on the student's high school transcript, rather than completion of high school coursework, bringing the rule language into better alignment with statutory language. This clarification is necessary to accurately determine and document the length of eligibility for mid-year high school graduates.

7.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(4)(C)3.A-B: Eligibility Expiration at 105 Percent of Student's Current Program of Study

Clarifies how institutions should calculate the 105 percent of eligibility limit when the student has earned a certificate and is now pursuing a higher level certificate or degree in a more advanced field related to the original certificate (a student with an LPN certificate who is pursuing his RN, for example). Under the current rule language, institutions must include in the 105 percent all known hours taken at any A+ participating institution and any hours accepted in transfer from a non-participating institution. The change would exclude hours for the previously completed program unless they are applicable to the higher level program. This provides a benefit to students and supports the department's goal of student persistence.

8.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(4)(D) Military Deferment

Caps the length of the deferment period at 48 months to ensure all students receive a maximum of 48 months of eligibility, even if a student's active duty military service is longer. In addition, language has been proposed to calculate the months of remaining eligibility from the first of the month following the student's discharge from military service. For example, if a student is discharged in mid-August, the student would have 12 months from September 1 to enroll full time. The 48 month time limit would then be calculated from the first day of month following the student's return to full-time status.

9.) 6 CSR 10-2.190(4)(E)1 and (4)(F). Coursework Qualified for Reimbursement

The proposed amendments relating to reimbursable coursework:

- Recognize that coursework in an Incomplete status will eventually be assigned a standard grade and should be eligible for reimbursement. However, coursework from which a student has withdrawn or is terminated, remains ineligible for reimbursement.
- Clarify that a student does not have to officially withdraw from a course for the coursework to be ineligible for reimbursement.
- Expand the method for ensuring withdrawn coursework is not reimbursed, from one option to three.